

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

REPORT NO. []

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 SUBJECT Smuggling in the Thanh Hoa Area
 by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

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1. Most of the smuggling in the Thanh Hoa area is carried on by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) trading organizations, which practice the barter system. Monthly shipments of opium are transported from the Viet Bac to Thanh Hoa (N 19-48, E 105-45). The opium is then trans-shipped to Nga Son (N 20-03, E 105-49) where it is traded with smugglers from the French-controlled zone and Chinese smugglers from Hainan Island. The opium sent from the Viet Bac totals about one ton a month.
2. The trading organizations use two principal routes in importing goods from the controlled zone:
 - a. Phat Diem to Nga Son to Thanh Hoa. The trading agents use bicycles to transport the goods, and are escorted by local security agents or troops. The materials usually imported by this route consist of bicycle tires, cigarettes, sugar and drugs; the drugs are destined for the Army.
 - b. Hainan to Hon Me Island (N 19-21, E 105-56) to Sam Son (N 19-43, E 105-53) to Ba Lang (N 19-25, E 105-47) to Thanh Hoa. The materials consist mainly of herbs, medicines, cloth and gasoline. Gasoline is immediately sent to the Viet Bac.
3. Very few of the goods obtained in this fashion reach the civilian population. Some clothing materials are offered to the people, but since the prices are a little higher than the market price, few people purchase the materials.

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 [] Comment. [] for information on smuggling between Hainan Island and Indochina []

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